

2. TRIAGE AND EVACUATION PROCEDURES INCLUDING BASICS OF MEDICAL REGULATING

Lesson Topic : Triage and Evacuation Procedures

Instructional Materials:

Instructional References:

1. Handbook of the Hospital Corps (NAVMED P5004)
2. HM3 & 2 Rate Training Manual

Instructional Aids:

Terminal Objective :

1. The student will be informed in the proper procedures for handling large numbers of casualties.

Enabling Objective:

1. The student will be informed of the evacuation procedures available.

I. MASS CASUALTY MANAGEMENT

A. The management of mass casualties depends upon the exercise of sound judgment in the following areas:

1. Prioritizing casualties (triage).
2. Directing treatment towards the maximum benefits to the greatest number of casualties under the circumstances.
3. Proper utilization of medical personnel (medical personnel should not be used for rescue, transportation, or non-medical labor functions).
4. Utilizing the ability to respond and adapt to changing circumstances.
5. Conservation of medical supplies.
6. Evacuation of casualties.
7. Planning and training.

II. TRIAGE

A. Triage comes from the French word meaning "sort". Medical sorting of casualties is the key to effective management of large numbers of sick and wounded personnel. Triage is a continuous process, carried out at each echelon of medical care as patients are evacuated. The critical importance of triage demands that Medical Officers assigned this responsibility be selected of the basis of mature professional judgment.

B. Immediate classification of casualties according to the type and seriousness of the injury, likelihood of survival, and establishment of priorities for treatment. Evacuation to assure medical care of the greatest benefit to the largest number of injured personnel. The criteria for selection will vary with the military situation, patient load, and capabilities of the medical unit involved.

III. PATIENT CLASSIFICATION

A. Minimal category: Those who have minor injuries and can be returned to duty.

B. Delayed category: Those with non-critical injuries that are stable and can be delayed in evacuation.

C. Immediate category: Those with an injury that is a matter of life and death, loss of limb, or loss of eyesight.

D. Expectant category: Those with an injury that will cause death regardless of treatment given.

IV. EVACUATION

A. Helicopter evacuation: In the past we have relied on air superiority to allow helicopter evac. This air superiority has gone by the wayside and evacuations will have to be carried out with ground vehicles and stretcher bearers when evacuating from the front lines.

1. Huey helicopters:

- a. UH-1E: Can carry three litter cases.
- b. UH-1N: Can carry six litter patients.
- c. CH-46: Can carry 15 litter patients.
- d. CH-53: Can carry 20 litter cases.

B. Ground vehicle evacuation: Appropriately outfitted HMMWV can carry 2 or 4 litter patients. Amtracks and tanks can also be utilized for patient evacuation as the operational situation

exists.

C. Evacuation priorities:

1. Routine: Minor injuries and KIA.
2. Priority: Serious injuries that are not life threatening.
3. Tactical emergencies: Based on the situation the casualty must be moved quickly.
4. Urgent or Emergency: These casualties have a life threatening emergency and require immediate evacuation.

Note: When requesting evacuation give number of casualties, type of wounds, and if casualties are stable and ready for evacuation.

D. Utilization:

1. Use all ground evacuation avenues possible before calling for an air evacuation unless an immediate evacuation is absolutely necessary or when surface transport over rough terrain would aggravate the condition.

V. REVIEW

A. Mass casualty treatment categories (combat):

1. Personnel in Minimal category.
2. Personnel in Immediate category.
3. Personnel in Delayed category.
4. Personnel in Expectant category.

B. Mass casualty treatment categories (non-combat):

1. Personnel in Immediate category.
2. Personnel in Delayed category.
3. Personnel in Minimal category.
4. Personnel in Expectant category.